

mission is proposed to be set-up to strengthen bilateral cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which commission would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVASINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c). India and Kuwait signed a cooperation agreement on February 16, 1992 during my official visit to Kuwait. The agreement provides for, inter alia, establishment of a Joint commission which would be set up as soon as the procedural formalities are completed by the two countries.

[English]

~~Damage Caused by Earthquake~~

2760. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cracks have developed in the road between Uttarkashi-Gangotri and Techri-Buda Kedamath;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the landslides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) to (e). The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Applications for Registration of Voluntary Organisations

2761. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for getting foreign contribution by the voluntary organisation;

(b) the number of applications of such organisations lying pending for registration in Bihar; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the registration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Sir, the receipt and utilisation of foreign contribution by certain categories of associations and persons is regulated under the provisions of the foreign contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

(b) Sixty nine applications were pending for registrations as on 31.12. 1991.

(c) Applications are dealt with expeditiously when the associations have furnished complete information.

Cooperative Storage Project

2762. SHRI LALIT ORAON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by National Cooperative Development Corporation under European Economic Community 'Funder Cooperative Storage project' during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of godowns constructed during the above period, state-wise; and

(c) the number of godowns under this project proposed to be set-up during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The cooperative Storage project is being implemented with EEC assistance only in the State of Bihar. During the last three years ending on 31.3. 1991, an amount of Rs. 472.39 Lakhs has been provided to the State Government under the project.

(b) During the last 3 years ending on 31.3.191, 234 Godowns were taken up for construction in Bihar of which 27 were completed and 207 were at various stages of construction.

(c) During the current year, i.e. 1991-92, there is a programme for completion of 273 godowns.

Sufferings of Minorities in Pakistan

2763. SHRI RABIRAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent US State Department's Annual Human Rights Report regarding the sufferings of minorities in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) On January 31, 1992 the US States Department issued its Country Reports on

Human Rights practices for 1991. On minorities in Pakistan the report said "Religious minorities continued to face discrimination and harassment". The report highlighted the discrimination against the Ahmadis and also mentioned the problems faced by Christians and Hindus.

(c) While there is concern and distress over reports of discrimination of minorities in Pakistan, it is the Govt. S stand that this is an internal matter of Pakistan.

Alleged Violations of Evaluation Norms by Ongc

2764. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
PROP. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY:
DR. JAYANTA RONGPI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "ONGC violating evaluation norms; CII" appearing in the Economic Times dated January 20, 1992;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is being looked into.